

Message Text

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ERDA GERMANTOWN

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SUBJECT: FRG LASER FUSION RESEARCH PROGRAM

REF: BONN 09595, JUNE 1975

1. THE GERMAN MAX PLANCK SOCIETY (MPG) HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH POWER LASERS AND THE INVESTIGATION OF THEIR APPLICATIONS PRIMARILY IN THE FIELD OF THERMONUCLEAR FUSION, LASER ISOTOPE SEPARATION AND LASER CHEMISTRY.

2. THE NUCLEUS OF THE NEW PROJECT GROUP WILL BE THE PRESENT "LASER RESEARCH WORKING GROUP" OF THE MPG INSTITUTE FOR PLASMA PHYSICS (IPP) AT GARCHING. THE PROJECT GROUP WILL EXPAND FROM ITS PRESENT 40 MEMBERS TO 80 RESEARCHERS BY 1977. IT WILL BE FINANCED BY THE FRG MINISTRY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) WITH A 1976 BUDGET OF DM 4.1 MILLION (ROUGHLY \$1.6 MILLION). AMONG THE FACILITIES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE GROUP WILL BE THE "ASTERIX III", A HIGH POWER PHOTOCHEMICAL GAS LASER.

3. THIS AGREEMENT TO ORGANIZE AN "INDEPENDENT" WORKING GROUP WITHIN THE IPP OF THE MPG HAS BEEN LONG-DELAYED
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AND RATHER CONTROVERSIAL ON BOTH ORGANIZATIONAL AND

FINANCIAL GROUNDS. (SEE REFTEL AND PRIOR REPORTS).

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